



The depression in the price of wheat, which has been quite marked for a few days past, excites the inquiry as to what the effect upon the business interests of this part of the country would be should circumstances render it impracticable to ship the surplus wheat to Europe. That such circumstances may occur for one or more years is not by any means impossible, nor yet is it the most improbable that they may occur. Even this year, some statists estimate that the United States will have a surplus, in excess of the requirements of those markets which have taken heretofore all the exports from this country. This estimate, though perhaps exaggerated, contains enough of truth to make it highly probable that the mean price for the harvest year upon which we have just entered will be much below the average for these years since Oregon became a wheat exporting state. While it is not likely that the United States will have as much as 135,000,000 bushels more than will be used at home or sold, the excess will be used to keep prices down to a minimum. There is no reason to believe that the crop in England, France and Russia will be less next year than this, nor that the requirements of those countries will be greater. In our own country, the area being added to the wheat producing section is enormous. This is especially true of the region which was until lately called the great northwest, the states of Minnesota and Iowa and the territory of Dakota, and of the Pacific coast states and territories. An increase for ten years to come in the proportion of the last ten years, and the United States will produce more wheat than all the European countries now require or and above their own production. Under such circumstances it would be a losing business to the people of Oregon to raise more wheat than they required for home consumption. That such circumstances might arise, it is to impress the lesson upon our people in order to maintain our trade relations and to reach the possible limit of prosperity, the much talked of division of industries should be made an actual fact. Aside from the staples of wheat and wool, the farmers of Oregon do not produce enough in excess of their own wants to pay for the single item of agricultural implements now imported. The exports of the two products named amounts to perhaps \$6,000,000, which is not enough to pay for the food and clothing which we buy in the eastern states or in foreign countries. Should the wheat and wool product of the world be much above average in the same year or succession of years, Oregon would feel its effect in the scarcity of the monetary supply, which would cramp every other branch of business in the state. The happening of such an event would be all the more regretted because the resources of the country are so ample to prevent, were they properly developed. But they are not. With an abundance of iron and coal millions are sent abroad for those things the manufacture of which requires nothing but iron and coal; with the postage for millions of cattle and men grinding at the lack of employment, nearly every man, woman and child in the state is wearing boots or shoes, which were made, and the leather for which was tanned in California or the east. Surpassed by few nations of the union as a fruit growing country, it would have been impossible to buy her barrels of dried apples in this market for a month past. No other country afford so many better facilities for the dairying business, but butter and cheese are shipped here from California and the east by thousands of pounds every year. Let one reflect how few of the articles which are in daily use by the people are produced, and how many are brought from abroad, and wonder will arise why Oregon is not really poorer than she is. Nothing short of the wonderful resources of the country would have kept up the rate of progress which the country has enjoyed in the past. For the future a change is imperative if rate of progress is maintained.

## McDONALD'S STORE.

For a long time recent events have been in the air that McDonald, the whisky ring chief of St. Louis, was about to publish a book whose revelations would expose Gen. Grant to measures of infamy. His appearance has been watched for by some who seem to have supposed that the disclosures to be made would show that General Grant had really been himself the chief of the ring to steal the revenues of the government. To them, the book, now that it is out, will be disappointing. Its revelations really add nothing to the stock of information in possession of the public for the past four or five years. But it possesses interest as a history of the whisky ring from the inside. As such it supplements and confirms the history reached through channels explored in the prosecution of the criminals. The statement of the case is substantially as follows: Early in 1872, or perhaps in 1871, the United States revenue officers in the St. Louis district began to converge at and profit by frauds upon the revenues by whisky distillers. The frauds afterwards extended into Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. As they rapidly grew upon the hands of the nascent ring, it became impossible entirely to conceal them from the authorities at Washington. The bold step was resolved upon of taking them authorities more or less into the confidence of the ring and deriving some parts of the profits to political power; to securing the perpetuation of the administration that in power. This experiment was skilfully made and each Washington official, was apparently tampered with just to the extent that was safe. Some were boldly told the whole story and invited to share the loot personally. Others were led to consider it as a political movement, an election necessary, to procure funds to help through the next presidential election and induced to wink at it for the good of the party. Others were communicated with still more vaguely and merely told that something was going on for the good of the party into which they were advised not to inquire too closely. This class of people generally shut their eyes reluctantly, and were innocently ignorant when the trials came on. When the ring had reached its full dimensions it had four or five grades of members, whose guilt and responsibility shrank from the baseness of perfect knowledge and share in the plunder to a mere vague perception that something wrong was going on that ought to be investigated. In the center of the ring were the city officials, Mrs. Joyce and McDonald, who stole from the revenue and enriched themselves. Next came their agents in Washington, who situated the plunder. Then came certain high officials, who knew that stealing was going on, but did not share in it personally, and believed, or affected to believe, that the proceeds were all applied to party uses. Of course this was mere pretense. The chief fault with Gen. Grant was that he had known the habit of repaying faith in men near him which blind him to faults they others easily see, led him for a long time to discredit the accusations. Hence he placed the administration in a attitude of resisting an investigation as an attack upon himself and on the republican party. But Grant was convinced at last, and then the rascals found it impossible longer to obtain protection from him. This aroused their wrath, and they began to assert that Grant himself had guilty knowledge of the transactions of the ring, and encouraged its trials on the revenue. McDonald's book, it has been said, would establish this charge. It does not. It

lurishes no information beyond that long ago elicited, which tends in that direction. It gives to one reason to doubt, as few have ever doubted, that Gen. Grant is personally an honest man. But it adds weight to the general judgment of his want of fitness for civil administration. Military education and habits do not assure the qualifications necessary for success in civil government. In fact they almost raise a presumption against proper fitness for civil life. A president should know something of politics and politicians. A purely military candidate cannot reasonably be expected to have that necessary knowledge. He is liable to be circumvented in one way or another by politicians who abhor his confidence and trade on the power they thus acquire. It may not always take the form of open frauds like those of the whisky ring, but in the end may be productive of worse consequences. Throughout the country there is distrust of Gen. Hancock, because he is only a soldier, and one of the strongest reasons felt by many for voting against him, will be found in the fear that he will be governed by the supine politicians of an unscrupulous party whom his election would call around him. The republican party has cast out its gang of unworthy men. The democratic party would have its gang to deal with, and the history of the party gives us no great assurance that it would be able to get through the job with credit to the country.

## FOOD AND MARKET.

A great disaster to crops is reported in Germany. Unusual and protracted rainfall has quite destroyed not only the cereal but other crops, so that it seems probable that heavy importations of food will be absolutely necessary. There is, however, a good harvest season in England, and when in a fair yield, the New York journals of latest dates by mail report, that the export movement from there has been arrested by the high rates demanded by ocean freight. But it is claimed that this will be but temporary, as excessive demands of transports will quickly reduce the cost for freight-room, so that a reduction of rates may be expected. With on here rates are now from twelve to fifteen shillings higher than at this time last year, though the prospects of the foreign market, so far as appears from reports now in, seem less promising than then.

Our Main Lane report of this week says there is little reason for English farmers to hope for high prices this season. English journals generally take a dependent view of the prospects of British farmers, owing to the fact that the low price of grain in America, while it leaves a good profit to American growers, enables them to deliver in Liverpool "at a price lower than the minimum cost of producing wheat in England, and hence it is to be feared that, in spite of the fine prospects, the British farmer has a cruelly hard time in store for him, even if prices fall no lower."

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# The Daily Oregonian.

SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 23, 1889.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA.

H. Ingham, a stone cutter of Maple bay, is missing, supposed to have been drowned.

The Victoria papers, in tone from that received from The Colossus says: "The news from Victoria could not be better. Scores of broken men have been at home, and many have gone on to Yale and accepted employment on the railway. The number of men left the diggers is variously estimated at from 30 to 150. Very few claims are paying anything. The creeks continue to rise."

**Victoria.** About seven days ago Ned Goyette, a well known teamster on the Cariboo wagon road, while ascending a hill near Bremerton, was pushed over the side of a precipice by a mule which pressed closely upon him from behind. The unfortunate teamster was buried in the mud, and Indians, who accompanied him, to strike the rocks below, whence it bounded into the river and was swept away by the remorseless current, which at this point sweeps on its way towards the sea at Yale. All the horses and mules, except Goyette's, were plainly marked on the rocks that received his body. When, after it bounded into the river, was not seen. The deceased was a French Canadian, and had been a long time on the road.

William Bigler, governor of Pennsylvania, from 1832 to 1855, and United States senator from 1856 to 1862, died at Clearfield, Pa., on the 9th August.

## FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

### Financial.

**FRIDAY EVENING, AUG. 20.**—Silver exchange in London banks, £2,400,000; documentary, £2,000,000; silver 200,000.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 20.**—Silver bullion 1,000 fine per ounce 134.

**Sterling exchange, prime cash, £1,400,000; documentary, £1,000,000; documentary from 1 to 4 per cent.**

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**FRIDAY, AUGUST 20.**—Silver bullion 1,00